

**Remarks**

1. The Office Action mischaracterizes claim 1. Claim 1 does not recite many of the items mentioned in the Official Action such as a mandrel, a telescopic relationship, and rotating the tube, for example.
2. The Office Action mischaracterizes claim 18. Claim 18 does not recite transmitting force to a tube by a plurality of rollers, for example.
3. The Office Action mischaracterizes claim 35. Claim 35 does not recite pressing an end portion of a tube against a stop surface, for example.
4. The claims of Groups I, II, III, and IV by the Examiner's admission are classifiable in the same class 82 and subclass 47. Claims of group V are classifiable in class 82 subclass 70.7.
5. Claims 1, 18, 29 and 35 (Groups) I, II, III and IV are directed to sequentially and successively cutting portions of a tube into a plurality of sections. These claims and dependent claims should clearly be examined together as they are

directed to the same general concept and are classifiable together in class 82, subclass 47.

Thus the search is overlapping. The claims also overlap.

6. Further, by the present amendment claim 54 has been added. This claim recites the general concept and is a linking claim and could be examined with either group.

7. Since, claims 1, 18, 29 and 35 merely recite features of the same concept, they should be examined together in the interest of Patent Office efficiency. This would be more efficient than examining five or six similar applications and making five or six searches of the same art.

In this case there is no efficiency or simplification for the Patent Office or applicant in maintaining the restriction requirement.

8. The fact that examination of the subject application may involve more work for the Examiner than an application having fewer claims should not be a consideration. For the USPTO the most efficient

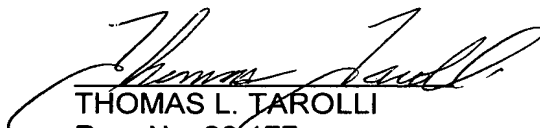
handling of the subject application would be for  
one Examiner to handle this one entire application  
instead of a plurality of applications, or instead of  
plural Examiners handling an application with each  
group of claims.

In order to meet the Patent Office requirement applicant hereby elects the  
claims of Group I.

Further by the present Amendment claim 1 has been amended to make it  
more grammatically correct, and claim 54 has been added.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this  
election to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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